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PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm



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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

Forced leaves start for thousands at USAID under a Trump plan to gut the foreign aid agency

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forced leaves pulling all but a small fraction of staffers of the U.S. Agency for International Development off the job around the world began Friday, while employee associations turned to federal courts to try to roll back the new Trump administration's stunningly swift dismantling of the six-decade-old aid agency and its programs worldwide.

State Department officials and others were appealing to the Trump administration to allow more USAID workers to remain on the job at least temporarily, including to manage the return home of thousands of USAID direct hires, contractors and their families abroad.

The administration told USAID officials Thursday that it planned to exempt fewer than 300 employees from global leave and furloughs ordered for at least 8,000 direct hires and contractors. Diplomats at embassies have asked for waivers allowing more time for some, including families forced to pull



Demonstrators and lawmakers rally against President Donald Trump and his ally Elon Musk as they disrupt the federal government, including dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development, which administers foreign aid approved by Congress, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.

Associated Press

their children out of schools midyear.

Two current USAID employees and a former senior USAID official told The Associated Press of the administration's staffing cutback plan that was presented to remaining senior officials of the agency Thursday. They spoke on condition of anonymity due to a Trump administration order barring USAID staffers from talking to anyone outside their agency.

The remaining direct hires

and contractors, along with an unknown number of 5,000 locally hired employees abroad, would run the few life-saving programs that the administration says it intends to keep going for now.

It was not immediately clear whether the reductions would be permanent or temporary, potentially allowing more workers to return after what the Trump administration says is a review of which aid and development programs it wants to resume.

The administration this week gave almost all USAID staffers posted overseas 30 days, starting Friday, to return to the U.S., with the government paying for their travel and moving costs.

In a notice late Thursday posted on the USAID website, the agency said none of the overseas personnel placed on administrative leave would be forced to leave the country in which they work. But workers who chose to stay longer than 30 days might have to cover their own expenses unless they received a specific hardship waiver.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said during a trip to the Dominican Republic that the government would help staffers get home within 30 days "if they so desired" and would listen to those with special conditions.

"We're not trying to be disruptive to people's personal lives," he told reporters Thursday. "We're not being punitive here."

He insisted the moves were the only way to get cooperation because staffers were working "to sneak through

payments and push through payments despite the stop order" on foreign assistance. Agency staffers deny his claims of obstruction.

President Donald Trump posted on social media Friday "CLOSE IT DOWN."

Rubio said the U.S. government will continue providing foreign aid, "but it is going to be foreign aid that makes sense and is aligned with our national interest."

The Trump administration and billionaire ally Elon Musk, who is running a budget-cutting Department of Government Efficiency, have targeted USAID hardest so far in an unprecedented challenge of the federal government and many of its programs. Since Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, a sweeping funding freeze has shut most of the agency's programs worldwide, and almost all of its workers have been placed on administrative leave or furloughed. Musk and the Republican president have spoken of eliminating USAID as an independent agency and moving surviving programs under the State Department. □



Vice President JD Vance, left, talks with Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum before President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba arrive to hold a news conference in the East Room of the White House, Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President JD Vance said

Vance says the DOGE staffer who resigned after a report of racist postings should be brought back

Friday that Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency should rehire a staff member who resigned after he was linked to social media posts that espoused racism, with President Donald Trump later endorsing his vice president's view.

Marko Elez resigned Thursday after The Wall Street Journal linked the 25-year-old DOGE staffer to a deleted social media account on X that posted last year, "I was racist before it was cool" and "You could not pay me to

marry outside of my ethnicity," among other posts.

The account in September included a post that said, "Normalize Indian hate." The vice president's wife, Usha Vance, is the daughter of Indian immigrants.

Vance, in a post on Musk-owned X, said Elez should be brought back and blamed "journalists who try to destroy people."

"I obviously disagree with some of Elez's posts, but I don't think stupid social media activity should ruin a kid's

life," Vance said. "I'm with the vice president," Trump told a news conference Friday. The vice president said Elez should be fired "if he's a bad dude or a terrible member of the team."

Vance's posts came after Musk in another social media post began polling his followers on whether he should bring back Elez.

The White House on Friday confirmed Elez resigned but did not answer a question about whether he had been asked to rejoin DOGE. □

Trump signs order imposing sanctions on International Criminal Court over investigations of Israel

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court over investigations of Israel, a close U.S. ally. Neither the U.S. nor Israel is a member of or recognizes the court, which has issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for alleged war crimes over his military response in Gaza after the Hamas attack against Israel in October 2023. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, including children, have been killed during the Israeli military's response. The order Trump signed Thursday accuses the ICC of engaging in "illegitimate and baseless actions targeting America and our close ally Israel" and of abusing its power by issuing "baseless arrest warrants" against Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant. "The ICC has no jurisdiction over the United States or Israel," the order states, adding that the court had set a "dangerous precedent" with its actions against both countries.

Trump's action came as Netanyahu was visiting Washington. He and Trump held talks Tuesday at the White House, and Netanyahu spent



Exterior of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, June 26, 2024.

Associated Press

some of Thursday meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The order says the U.S. will impose "tangible and significant consequences" on those responsible for the ICC's "transgressions." Actions may include blocking property and assets and not allowing ICC officials, employees and relatives to enter the United States.

Human rights activists said sanctioning court officials would have a chilling effect and run counter to U.S. interests in other conflict zones where the court is investigat-

ing.

"Victims of human rights abuses around the world turn to the International Criminal Court when they have nowhere else to go, and President Trump's executive order will make it harder for them to find justice," said Charlie Hogle, staff attorney with American Civil Liberties Union's National Security Project. "The order also raises serious First Amendment concerns because it puts people in the United States at risk of harsh penalties for helping the court identify and investigate atrocities committed

anywhere, by anyone."

Hogle said the order "is an attack on both accountability and free speech."

"You can disagree with the court and the way it operates, but this is beyond the pale," Sarah Yager, Washington director of Human Rights Watch, said in an interview prior to the announcement. Like Israel, the U.S. is not among the court's 124 members and has long harbored suspicions that a global court could arbitrarily prosecute U.S. officials. A 2002 law authorizes the Pentagon to liberate any American or U.S.

ally held by the court. In 2020, Trump sanctioned chief prosecutor Karim Khan's predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, over her decision to open an inquiry into war crimes committed by all sides, including the U.S., in Afghanistan.

However, those sanctions were lifted under President Joe Biden, and the U.S. began to tepidly cooperate with the tribunal — especially after Khan in 2023 charged Russian President Vladimir Putin with war crimes in Ukraine. Driving that turnaround was Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who organized meetings in Washington, New York and Europe between Khan and GOP lawmakers who have been among the court's fiercest critics.

Now, Graham says he feels betrayed by Khan and is vowing to crush the court as well as the economy of any country that tries to enforce the arrest warrant against Netanyahu.

"This is a rogue court. This is a kangaroo court," Graham said in an interview in December. "There are places where the court makes perfect sense. Russia is a failed state. People fall out of windows. But I never in my wildest dreams imagined they would go after Israel, which has one of the most independent legal systems on the planet." □

Trump says U.S. Steel will get investment from Nippon Steel, instead of being bought by it

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday suggested that Nippon Steel would no longer buy U.S. Steel as planned, but the Japanese company would instead invest in the symbolically important American business.

The U.S. president mistakenly referred to Nippon Steel as "Nissan," the Japanese automaker. But it's Nippon Steel's bid that generated controversy as both Trump and his predecessor in the White House, Joe Biden, vowed to block the merg-

er.

Nippon Steel "is going to be doing something very exciting about U.S. Steel," Trump said at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. "They'll be looking at an investment rather than a purchase."

It was unclear what the details of the investment would be, but Trump said he would meet with the head of Nippon Steel next week and he would be involved "to mediate and arbitrate."

Ishiba described the investment as mutually beneficial

and said Japanese technology would be provided to U.S. Steel mills.

Nippon Steel in December 2023 made what was a nearly \$15 billion bid to buy U.S. Steel, creating a sudden political issue in the 2024 presidential election as the Pittsburgh-headquartered steelmaker was key to the identity of the political swing state of Pennsylvania. Biden agreed with the United Steelworkers, the labor union, in seeking to block the merger, while Trump as a candidate said outright he opposed the purchase. □



President Donald Trump answers questions during a news conference with Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba at the White House, Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Live poultry markets ordered shut in New York City because of avian flu outbreak

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — All live poultry markets in New York City and some of its suburbs were ordered Friday to close for a week after the detection of seven cases of avian flu, which has also hit farms nationwide, led to the slaughter of millions of birds and driven up egg prices.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said there is no immediate threat to public health and that the temporary closure of bird markets in the city and its Westchester County and Long Island suburbs comes out of an abundance of caution. No cases of avian flu have been detected among humans in New York, officials said.

The order came after birds infected with the virus were found during routine inspections of live bird markets in the New York City boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said the virus poses low risk to the general public. The agency said there have been 67 confirmed cases of bird flu in humans in the U.S., with illnesses mild and mostly detected among



An employee of La Granja Live Poultry Corporation takes chickens to be slaughtered as customers wait in line inside a poultry store on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, in New York.

farmworkers who were exposed to sick poultry or dairy cows.

The first bird flu death in the U.S. was reported last month in Louisiana, with health officials saying the person was older than 65, had underlying medical problems and had been in contact with sick and dead birds in a backyard flock.

In New York, live bird markets where the virus was detected have to dispose

of all poultry in a sanitary manner, according to the state's order. Other bird markets that do not have cases will have to sell off remaining poultry within three days, clean and disinfect and then remain closed for at least five days and be inspected by state officials before reopening.

Ahead of the mandatory disposal order for markets with no cases, employees at La Granja, a halal-

certified poultry market in Manhattan's Harlem neighborhood, raced to sell the remainder of its inventory: around 200 live chickens of different varieties, along with turkeys, quail, ducks, roosters, pigeons and rabbits. Any remaining animals would be slaughtered and given away to employees and longtime customers, according to Jose Fernandez, the owner.

"We're going to lose mon-

ey, for now," he said. "But the law is the law. They know what they're doing." The H5N1 strain of bird flu has been spreading among wild birds, poultry, cows and other animals. Officials have urged people who come into contact with sick or dead birds to wear respiratory and eye protection and gloves when handling poultry.

More than 156 million birds nationwide have been affected by the outbreak, many at large farming operations that have had to slaughter their entire flocks. Despite growing attention on the avian flu, New York City's poultry markets appeared to be doing brisk business Friday.

Outside the Wallabout Poultry market in Brooklyn, a line of customers took numbers and picked their chickens, which employees snatched from crowded cages, weighing them upside down, before bringing them to a backroom to be slaughtered.

"I'm not worried about any bird flu," said Stan Tara, a 42-year-old Brooklyn resident, as he purchased a large chicken for \$22.50. "It's the same as you buy from the supermarket. □

Associated Press

Aaron Hernandez's brother sentenced to time served in shooting threats case

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The brother of the late New

England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was sen-



Dennis Hernandez, the brother of the late New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, stands with his public defender Sandra Crowell during his arraignment, Aug. 1, 2023, at Connecticut Superior Court in New Britain, Conn.

Associated Press

tenced Friday to 18 months of prison time already served for threatening to carry out a shooting at the University of Connecticut and to kill three people including a judge in 2023.

Dennis Hernandez, 38, who went by "DJ" while playing quarterback and wide receiver for UConn football in the mid-2000s, was suffering severe mental health problems at the time of the threats and has since been receiving treatment and taking medication, according to his public defender, Josh Ewing.

U.S. District Judge Sarala Nagala in Hartford also sentenced Hernandez to three years of supervised release,

during which he must continue mental health and substance abuse treatment, allow probation officials to monitor his electronic devices and stay away from UConn and other locations he threatened, the Connecticut U.S. attorney's office said.

Hernandez, who apologized for his actions during brief comments in court, was expected to be released from custody on Friday afternoon, The Hartford Courant reported.

State criminal charges in Connecticut and Florida in other cases including allegations he threw a brick with a note critical of the media attached onto ESPN

headquarters property in Bristol, Connecticut — are expected to be dismissed because of the federal case, Ewing said, adding that those incidents happened during the same mental health crisis.

Ewing did not immediately return phone and email messages after the sentencing. In court documents, he wrote that Hernandez was "horrified" at how his actions terrified others, is remorseful and is committed to maintaining his mental health.

Hernandez pleaded guilty to a felony transmitting interstate communications containing a threat to injure in December. □

Trudeau says Canada must think 'tactically and strategically' on dealing with Trump's tariff threats

By JIM MORRIS
Associated Press
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday that Canada must think "tactically and strategically" on how to deal with U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to impose hefty tariffs on all Canadian imports.

Speaking in Toronto at the opening of a one-day summit on the Canada-U.S. economic relationship, Trudeau told the gathering of trade, business and labor experts the country must work with the U.S. to avoid tariffs.

He also said Canada needs to eliminate internal trade barriers and expand its trade with other nations.

"This is a moment," said Trudeau. "This is a time in our country's history that really matters." Later, local media reported that Trudeau told business leaders at the summit that Trump's comments to make Canada the 51th state are "a real thing."

"Mr. Trump has it in mind that



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addresses a Canada-U.S. economic summit in Toronto, Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.

the easiest way to do it is absorbing our country and it is a real thing. In my conversations with him on..." Trudeau said, before the microphone cut out, Canada's public broadcaster CBC reported.

Trump on Monday agreed to a 30-day pause on threats to impose 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, with another 10% tariff on Canadian oil, natural gas and electricity.

Trump had threatened the tariffs to ensure greater cooperation from the countries to stop illegal immigration and prevent fentanyl smuggling, but he has also pledged to use tariffs to boost domes-

tic manufacturing and raise revenues for the federal government.

Trudeau said Canada can use the 30-day extension to show U.S. officials the country's increased spending on border security. Canada has announced a \$1.3 billion Canadian dollars (\$900 million) border security plan that includes drones, helicopters, more border guards and the creation of a joint task force.

Trudeau also has promised to appoint a new fentanyl czar, who will serve as the primary liaison between the Canadian and U.S. governments, even though less than 1% of the fentanyl and illegal immigrant crossings into the U.S. come from Canada.

"We need to be very deliberate about how we continue to engage closely with the United States to make the case that Canada is responsible for a tiny part of the North American fentanyl problem, but that we are also bitterly touched by this tragedy," Trudeau said. □

Associated Press

Santorini restricts traffic and imposes more precautionary measures against earthquakes

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited earthquake-struck Santorini on Friday, as the Aegean island imposed more precautionary measures amid intense seismic activity.

During his visit, Mitsotakis inspected emergency preparedness facilities and

announced a 3 million euro (\$3.1 million) funding package for constructing an emergency evacuation route in the southern part of the island.

"We are preparing for the worst while hoping for the best. That's what a serious and organized state must do," Mitsotakis said during

a meeting with local officials.

The heightened seismic activity has prompted authorities to implement additional precautionary measures, including restricting traffic in areas listed as vul-

nerable to rockslides. Army trucks have also brought electricity generators to Santorini, while rescuers were deployed earlier this week. Scientists are continuing to monitor the ongoing seismic swarm of un-

dersea quakes as strong as magnitude 5.2 that are mostly affecting Santorini and three nearby islands, where schools have also closed and more limited emergency measures were taken. □



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, right, speaks to the press next to Santorini Mayor Nikos Zorzos in the volcanic island of Santorini, on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, as earthquakes are still rattling the island.

Associated Press

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U.S. draws 'red line' over including Hezbollah in Lebanon's government, new envoy says

By **SALLY ABOU ALJOUD**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A newly appointed U.S. envoy said Friday that she hoped Lebanese authorities were committed to making sure that the Hezbollah militant group isn't a part of the new government in any form.

Morgan Ortagus, a former U.S. State Department spokesperson and U.S. Navy Reserve officer, recently assumed the role of deputy special envoy for Middle East peace in President Donald Trump's administration, replacing Amos Hochstein, who helped broker the ceasefire that ended the 14-month war between Israel and Hezbollah.

"We are grateful to our ally Israel for defeating Hezbollah," Ortagus said at a news conference in Beirut's southeastern suburb of Baabda after a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun. "It is thanks to the Lebanese President Aoun and the Prime Minister-designate Nawaf Salam and everyone in this government who is committed to an end of corruption, who is committed to reforms and who is com-



In this photo released by the Lebanese Presidency press office, Lebanese president Joseph Aoun, right, shakes hands with U.S. deputy special envoy for Middle East peace Morgan Ortagus in Baabda, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.

mitted to making sure that Hezbollah is not a part of the new government in any form.

"We have set clear red lines from the United States that (Hezbollah) won't be able to terrorize the Lebanese people and that includes by being a part of the government," she added.

In response, Lebanon's presidency said in a statement on X:

"Some of what was issued by the U.S. Deputy Envoy to the Middle East, Morgan Ortagus, from Baabda expresses her point of view, and the Presidency is not concerned with it."

Lebanese parliamentarians have named Nawaf Salam, a diplomat and former judge at the International Court of Justice, as Prime Minister-designate, tasking him with forming a

government in a country that has been in caretaker mode since 2022.

Despite Salam's stated commitment to forming a government, progress has stalled. Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system allocates key positions among Christian, Shiite and Sunni factions, with dominant blocs Hezbollah and the Amal Movement for the Shiites, and the Leba-

nese Forces for the Christians insisting on their share of ministerial portfolios.

Also in response to Ortagus's statement, the Jaafari Mufti, Sheikh Ahmad Qabalan — a senior Shiite cleric and staunch Hezbollah ally — said in a statement that "Hezbollah is a national and representative force of Lebanon."

"Hezbollah has not been defeated and will not be defeated there is no power on earth that can eliminate Hezbollah. Sovereignty belongs solely to Lebanon and its national components, not to America and its exclusionary and destructive projects," he added. "A government without the national duo (Hezbollah and the Amal Movement, both Shiite parties) pushes the country into the unknown."

Meanwhile, under the ceasefire agreement, the deadline for Israel's troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon, initially set for Jan. 26, was extended to Feb. 18, while Hezbollah must retreat north of the Litani River which serves as the boundary for a zone free of non-state armed groups. □

U.N. rights body condemns Rwanda and the rebels it backs in neighboring Congo

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N.'s top human rights body on Friday condemned Rwanda's support of rebel fighters across the border in eastern Congo and or-

dered a team of experts to examine rights violations in the region.

The decision by the Human Rights Council was requested by Congo and agreed

to by consensus, meaning no vote was taken. It culminated an urgent session on the spiraling violence in a region where Rwanda-backed M23 rebels recently captured the key city of Goma. Some 3,000 people have been killed and nearly as many injured since late January.

The area holds vast deposits of minerals critical to the manufacture of much of the world's technology, including mobile phones.

The resolution text, among other things, "firmly condemns the military and logistic support of the Rwandan defense force to the March 23 Movement, which continues to cause many civilian casualties,

more displacement and significant trauma among the population."

The council also called on the M23 and Rwandan defense forces "to immediately halt violations of human rights" in the North and South Kivu regions, and allow access to humanitarian aid deliveries through the airport in Goma.

It also decided to create an independent commission of inquiry made up of three experts in international law to look into rights violations and report back to the council. U.N. experts say the rebels, the most potent of more than 100 armed groups in the region, are backed by roughly 4,000 troops from neighboring

Rwanda. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has urged the rebels to lay down their weapons and agree to mediation.

Volker Türk, the U.N. human rights chief, said an estimated 3,000 people were killed and nearly 2,900 wounded in an increase in violence since Jan. 26. Speaking as the special session began, he cautioned that the real figures are "probably a lot higher."

"If nothing is done, then the worst could still be yet to come for the inhabitants of the eastern part of the country, but also in people living beyond the DRC's borders," he said, referring to the Democratic Republic of Congo. □



Residents walk by charred vehicles in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

Associated Press

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best

restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.



In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re) opening in 1972.



After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and main-

tenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyræna barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyræna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup.

In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.


Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions.

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.



ROOFTOP BAR

ZIMA

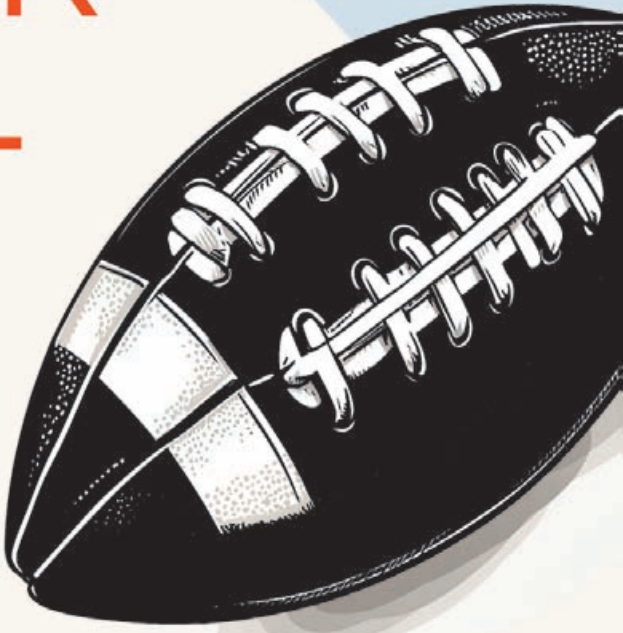
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February 9, 2025 | 6:00 PM

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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectfully honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Robert & Mrs. Mary Ann Swan from Endicott, New York, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Tamarijn bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's quality of food
- "Made friendship with staff at the Divi and Tamarijn
- Aruba's weather
- Aruba's safety
- "Family with Island"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most

beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things

start happening in nature. Canadian in the house
The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.



Cabochon

In its living form of so much

more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaarts-maragdkolibrie (manneltje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.



Picture credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

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Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if

it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the



Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone

Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water,

as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay be-

fore leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always

a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

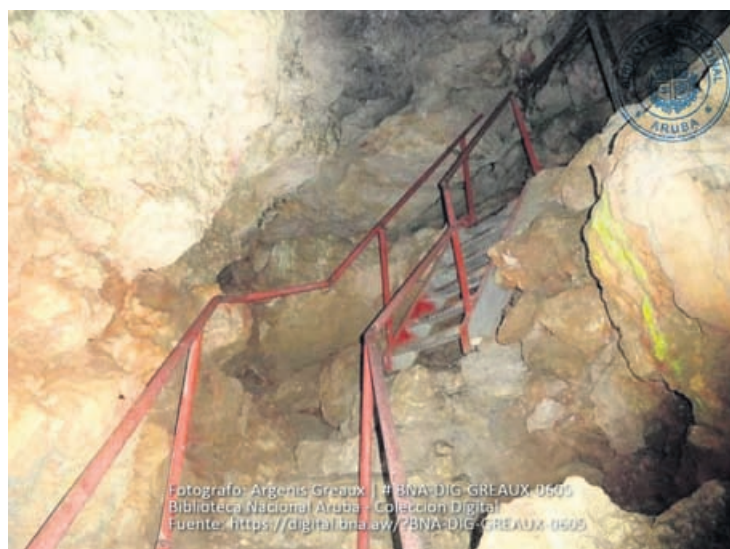
Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary,



put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is inter-

esting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

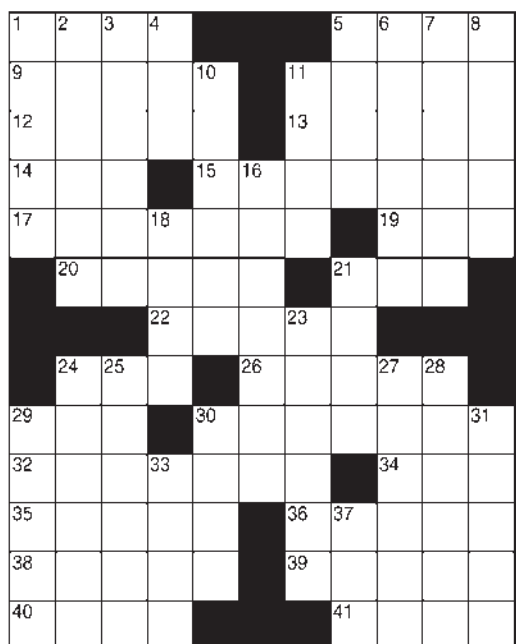
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 "— my case"
 - 1 Word of action
 - 5 Noted feature
 - seam-stress
 - 40 Car ding
 - 41 Polite
 - 9 Sharif and Epps
 - 11 Cow-hand's place
 - 12 River vessel
 - 13 Met work
 - 14 Help out
 - 15 Did some scheming
 - 17 Dried by dabbing
 - 19 Method
 - 20 "The Hobbit" dragon
 - 21 Male cat
 - 22 Forge worker
 - 24 Bible boat
 - 26 Impetuous
 - 29 Hearty brew
 - 30 Like some spoons
 - 32 Stopped flowing
 - 34 Unrefined
 - 35 Indian coin
 - 36 Relish tray choice

DOWN

- 1 Words to learn, for short
- 2 Phone part
- 3 Hap-hazard
- 4 Sis's sib
- 5 Captivated
- 6 Ring work
- 7 React to a ghost
- 8 Like an elm grove
- 10 Nose part
- 11 Crucifix
- 16 Like good hand-writing
- 18 Gofer's note
- 21 Not this
- 23 Trampled for one
- 24 Charm
- 25 Resume business
- 27 Try hard
- 28 Angel's home
- 29 Bitter
- 30 Proofing
- 31 Resided
- 33 Final,
- 37 Fall back



2-7

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

R MUWPE AZLP WDP ARKWZLP MU
WDRELREH WDW KMAPWDREH
WDZW RK MNBRTK WM AP
RK ITKW ZK MNBRTK WM
PBPSFMEP PJKP. — VDRAZAZEXZ
EHMYR ZXRVRP

Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FACE
ALWAYS TOWARD THE SUNSHINE — AND SHADOWS
WILL FALL BEHIND YOU. — WALT WHITMAN

Cruise ship Schedule: February 01 - 08 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL MIRACLE	08.00	22.00	C	1
		EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	I	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	16.00	G	1
SUN	02	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	I	-
MON	03	OCEANIA SIRENA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1
WED	05	AIDABELLA	10.00	22.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	21.00	C	1
		SEABOURN OVATION	07.00	19.00	I	1
THU	06	ROTTERDAM	08.00	23.00	B	1
		AIDAMAR	10.00	20.00	C	1
FRI	07	MARELLA EXPLORER 2	08.00	20.00	B	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	08	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	07.00	20.00	B	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

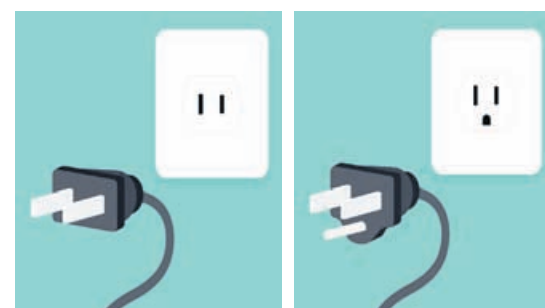
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Forget saving the planet. Clean energy interests sharpen a different message: Money and jobs



Wind turbines at the Buckeye Wind Energy are diffused by heat vapors as the are silhouetted against the rising sun, Sept. 30, 2024, near Hays, Kan.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and
ALEXA ST. JOHN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saving the planet is so 2024. Clean energy leaders across the globe are now tailoring their messages to emphasize the greener side of green: wealth-building. It's an idea that sells far better in the new world of nationalism and tycoon leaders. Messaging from the U.S. renewable energy industry and the United Nations on climate change has typically focused on the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions for the sake of environmental and human health. To bolster the argument, they cite record-shattering heat around the world, the frequent climate disasters costing billions of dollars and the human toll of it all. But a sharper emphasis on profit potential has become evident as President Donald Trump stormed into office with a flurry of rollbacks to clean energy initiatives and an emphatic declaration of plans to "unleash" oil, gas and mining. In a lobbying blitz in Washington this week, solar, wind, hydropower and other clean-energy interests touted their role in a "robust American energy and manufacturing economy" and sported lapel pins that said "American energy dominance" a favorite Trump phrase. Meanwhile, in a major policy speech Thursday in Brazil, the U.N.'s top cli-

mate official played up the \$2 trillion flowing into clean-energy projects and recalled a friend telling him that appealing to people's "better angels" only goes so far. That friend, according to U.N. Climate Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, added: "In the great horserace of life ... 'always back self-interest ... what's in it for me.'"

It's not that clean energy backers haven't made the case before. But a different landscape, especially in the U.S., stands to make it more potent. □

me.' "

It's not that clean energy backers haven't made the case before. But a different landscape, especially in the U.S., stands to make it more potent. □



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3 Bed Ocean view \$36,000
2 Bed WK 51 Ocean view \$65,500
2 Bed WK 52 Ocean View \$65,500
2 Bed WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$14,500
2 Bed Garden view \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$17,000
1 Bed Oceanfront \$13,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$11,500

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OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Kendrick Lamar vows to keep his passion for storytelling at the Super Bowl halftime show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kendrick Lamar aims to infuse his Los Angeles hip-hop flavor into New Orleans while staying true to his storytelling roots during Sunday's Super Bowl halftime performance.

"Being in the now and being just locked-in to how I feel and the energy I have now, that's the L.A. energy for me," he said Thursday at a press conference hosted by Apple Music. "That's something I wanted to carry over to New Orleans and for the world to see. This is me. This is Kendrick Lamar, 37 years old, and I still feel like I'm elevating, I'm still on a journey."

The rap megastar will take the Super Bowl stage fresh off a Grammy triumph, where he claimed two of the night's biggest awards song and record of the year for his diss track "Not Like Us."

When asked what viewers can expect, Lamar answered: "Storytelling. I think I've always been very open about storytelling through all my catalog and my history of music. And I've always had a passion about bringing that on whatever stage I'm on."

Lamar will be bringing hip-hop back to the NFL's championship game, where he performed as a guest artist with Dr. Dre,



Apple Music Super Bowl LIX Halftime Show performer Kendrick Lamar speaks during a news conference, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, in New Orleans ahead of the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Associated Press

Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Eminem in 2022. On Sunday, he becomes the first solo hip-hop artist to headline the halftime show.

"It reminds me of the essence and the core response of rap and hip-hop and how far it can go," he said. "It puts the culture at the forefront, where it needs to be and not minimized to just a catchy song or verse. This is a true art form, so to represent it on this type of stage is like everything that I've worked for and every-

thing that I believe in as far as the culture."

SZA will join him but few other details about the performance were revealed, bowing to a tradition in which headliners keep their plans secret.

Rihanna waited until her Super Bowl performance in 2023 to reveal she was pregnant with her second child.

The Super Bowl will be held Sunday at the Caesars Superdome, with the two-defending champions Kansas City Chiefs facing

off against the Philadelphia Eagles in a championship rematch.

Who else is performing at the Super Bowl?

The Super Bowl pregame will have some Louisiana flavor: Jon Batiste will hit the stage to sing the national anthem, while Trombone Shorty and Lauren Daigle are slated to perform "America the Beautiful."

Batiste said he'll be thinking of his grandfather, a veteran who recently died.

"I think about a lot of people in my life who have rep-

resented what I believe this song is about and should be about at its highest aspirational level," he said. "When I channel that, it makes it feel like it's me. But it's way bigger than me. I'm just a vessel for that energy in the world to continue. If that can happen, I might get choked up."

Ledisi will perform "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as part of the pregame performances.

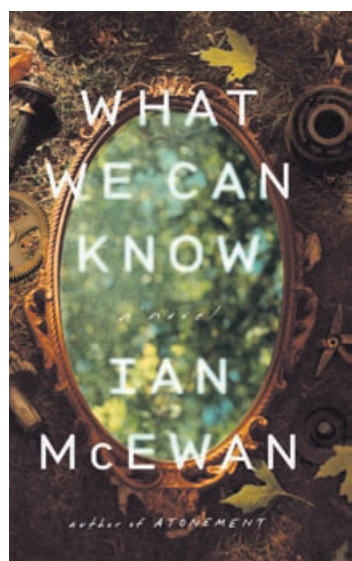
The national anthem and "America the Beautiful" will be performed by actor Stephanie Noguera in American sign language. Otis Jones IV will sign "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and the halftime show will be signed by Matt Maxey.

The pregame performers are all Louisiana natives.

Why is the Super Bowl perfect time for Lamar & SZA?

In just a week, Lamar will go from dominating the Grammys with five wins in all his categories to taking center stage at the Super Bowl halftime show.

Fresh off releasing his highly-acclaimed album "GNX," Lamar is also gearing up for a major tour alongside SZA, his former Top Dawg Entertainment labelmate. The Grand National Tour kicks off April 19 in Minneapolis and concludes June 18 in Washington, D.C. "I'm honored to be next to her talent," Lamar said of SZA. □



This photo provided by Knopf shows the book cover of "What We Can Know," by author, Ian McEwan.

Associated Press

Ian McEwan's next novel, 'What We Can Know,' is science fiction 'without the science'

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The next novel by Ian McEwan will be a post-apocalyptic story, set in part in the 22nd century and centered on a scholar's immersion into a poem written during happier times.

McEwan, the Booker Prize-winning British author, is calling "What We Can Know" a work of science fiction "without the science."

"I've written a novel about a quest, a crime, revenge,

fame, a tangled love affair, mental illness, love of nature and poetry, and how, through all natural and self-inflicted catastrophes, we have the knack of surviving," McEwan said in a statement released Friday through Alfred A. Knopf, which announced the book will be published Sept. 16.

"In our times, we know more about the world than we ever did, and such knowledge will be hard to erase. My ambition in this novel

was to let the past, present and future address each other across the barriers of time."

The 76-year-old McEwan has previously imagined disasters and disruptions and how we respond whether the threat of climate change in "Solar," a radiation cloud in "Lessons" or artificial intelligence in "Machines Like Me." Knopf publisher and editor-in-chief Jordan Pavlin said in a statement that "What We Can Know" is an explo-

ration of the "limits of our knowledge," whether of other people or the arc of the past.

"As the title suggests, the book calls into question the limits of our knowledge about our most intimate companions, and about history itself," Pavlin said. "How many irrecoverable secrets and stories are lost to the past? McEwan's genius in this novel is to recover, in an exquisite feat of storytelling, a long-lost secret." □

The Super Bowl three-peat eluded Bradshaw, Brady, Montana and Aikman. Now Mahomes takes his shot

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Pro Football Writer

Terry Bradshaw always wondered what might have been if his Pittsburgh Steelers had reached the Super Bowl either of the times they had a chance to win three in a row.

Ronnie Lott has long lamented just one bounce of the oblong ball that he believes could have helped send the San Francisco 49ers to the big game when they were in just about perfect position for a three-peat.

Kansas City is the first team to reach the Super Bowl after winning the previous two, which means Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs have done what Tom Brady, Joe Montana, Troy Aikman and Bradshaw couldn't before them.

Now they'll try to finish the job Sunday night against the Philadelphia Eagles in New Orleans.

"You got to have a lot of luck," Lott said. "You got to find moments where you want the ball to bounce your way. And then the other thing is, you've just got to get over the idea that nobody thinks you can do it."

There is one asterisk. Bart Starr led Green Bay to the 1965 NFL championship and the first two Super Bowl



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy while talking to Terry Bradshaw following the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

titles. Plus, John Elway retired after winning consecutive Super Bowls with the Denver Broncos.

Bradshaw and those Steel Curtain teams lost to the Oakland Raiders, coached by the late Pro Football Hall of Famer John Madden, in the AFC championship game during Pittsburgh's first run as the two-time defending champ.

The Steelers didn't even make the playoffs the second time around, which was four years later.

"Had we gotten to the Super Bowl, then I would say the chances of a three-peat would have been very good because you are a defending champion and you've experienced a Super Bowl and winning a Super Bowl," Bradshaw said. "It's that long, drawn out football season where you're just waiting to get to the playoffs. And it's a difficult task."

Roger Craig's late fumble is what most remember when the 49ers lost at home to

the Giants 15-13 on New York's field goal on the final play of the NFC championship game during the 1990 season.

Lott, however, recalls in vivid detail 34 years later an earlier play when the Hall of Fame safety says Jeff Hostetler lost control of the ball in the backfield with him blitzing, but the ball bounced the Giants quarterback's way instead of his.

A second consecutive 14-2 season with Montana,

Jerry Rice and John Taylor amounted to nothing in the minds of the Niners. Besides the luck of the bounce, Lott was quick to bring up the health of the players as was Montana.

"The seasons are long. The offseasons are short," Montana said. "Usually you're not at 100% strength, your body doesn't have its usual time to prepare itself during the offseason. When you compound that over the years ... it makes it even worse."

Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith and receiver Michael Irvin also got the Cowboys back to an NFC title game as two-time champs, but the Hall of Fame trio lost at San Francisco during the 1994 season, when Steve Young had taken over for Montana at QB.

Daryl Johnston, the fullback when Dallas became the first to win three Super Bowls in a span of four seasons, believes the Cowboys had an asterisk of their own.

After beating Buffalo for the title in consecutive years, owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson had their infamous and acrimonious split.

Barry Switzer coached the team that fell short of a three-peat. □

Associated Press

Canelo Alvarez changes course, drops Jake Paul fight to sign big deal with Riyadh Season

By The Associated Press

Canelo Alvarez has agreed to a four-fight deal with Riyadh Season, with the Mexican superstar leveraging a widely speculated bout with Jake Paul for a much bigger contract.

Turki Alalshikh, the head of Riyadh Season and the General Entertainment Authority of Saudi Arabia, announced the deal Thursday on social media.

"Don't mess with the lion," Alalshikh said.

Alvarez quickly replied on social media: "Let's go brother."

The first fight under Alva-

rez's new deal would be in May in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Terence Crawford the long-reigning welterweight champion might be his second fight. "I'm waiting on Canelo in September," Crawford wrote on X, in reply to Alalshikh, "and going to shock the world in Riyadh Season!"

Ring Magazine, citing a source with knowledge of the details, said a bout against Crawford was planned for September in Las Vegas at the Raiders' Allegiant Stadium.

Alvarez has spent years as

the biggest moneymaker in boxing, and the 34-year-old super middleweight champion used the threat of a stunt fight against Paul to leverage a major commitment from the Saudi Arabian government arm that has flooded the sport with money in the past few years.

Alvarez would have been an astronomical favorite to beat Paul, the YouTube star who has turned himself into one of the biggest draws in combat sports while fighting mixed martial artists and 58-year-old Mike Tyson.

Instead, Alvarez appears to be back on track for a meeting this year with

Crawford, who will have to move up two weight classes to fight Canelo. □



Canelo Alvarez reacts before fighting Edgar Berlanga in a super middleweight title bout on Sept. 14, 2024, in Las Vegas.
Associated Press

Super Bowl 2025: Time, channel, halftime show, how to watch Chiefs vs. Eagles livestream

By The Associated Press

The Kansas City Chiefs are just two days away from trying for a historic Super Bowl three-peat, while the Philadelphia Eagles are the only remaining team that can stop them.

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs are back in the NFL title game which will be on Sunday in New Orleans after beating the Buffalo Bills 32-29 in a thrilling AFC championship game.

They'll face Philadelphia and star running back Saquon Barkley, who ran for three touchdowns as the Eagles beat the Washington Commanders 55-23 in the NFC title game.

The upcoming Super Bowl



Workers hang player banners outside the Caesars Superdome, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, in New Orleans, prior to the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Associated Press

Most Valuable Player award on Thursday night in the closest race since Matt Ryan beat out Tom Brady in 2016.

Allen, who led Buffalo to a fifth straight AFC East title, got 27 first-place votes to Jackson's 23 and finished with 383 points. He received 22 second-place votes and one third. The Bills fell short of playing on Sunday, losing to the Chiefs in the AFC title game.

Other winners:

AP NFL Coach of the Year: Kevin O'Connell, Minnesota

AP Offensive Player of the Year: Saquon Barkley, Philadelphia

AP Defensive Player of the Year: Patrick Surtain II, Denver

AP Offensive Rookie of the Year: Jayden Daniels, Washington

AP Defensive Rookie of the Year: Jared Verse, Los Angeles Rams

AP Comeback Player of the Year: Joe Burrow, Cincinnati

Who is performing at the Super Bowl halftime show? Kendrick Lamar will be the headliner for the halftime show.

The rap megastar, who has won 17 Grammys, said he's looking forward to bringing hip-hop to the NFL's championship game, where he performed as a guest artist with Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Eminem in 2022.

Lamar will be joined on stage by Grammy winner SZA his former Top Dawg Entertainment labelmate. The singer appeared on Lamar's recent album "GNX" and was featured on a couple of songs including "Gloria" and "Luther," which also features sampled vocals from Luther Vandross and Cheryl Lynn.

The duo's previous hits include the Oscar-nominated "All the Stars" and "Doves in the Wind." Jay-Z's Roc Nation company and Emmy-winning producer Jesse Collins will serve as co-executive producers of the halftime show. □

is a rematch of two years ago, when the Chiefs edged the Eagles 38-35 in Glendale, Arizona. Last year, Kansas City beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime in Las Vegas. No team has ever won three straight Super Bowls.

Here are a few more things to know as the Super Bowl approaches:

What channel is the Super Bowl on?

The game will be aired on Fox. Kevin Burkhardt will be the play-by-play announcer with former New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady as the analyst. This is Brady's first Super Bowl as an announcer. He won seven titles as a player.

Erin Andrews and Tom Rinaldi are also part of the broadcast team.

What time is the Super Bowl?

It will start at roughly 6:30 p.m. EST on Feb. 9.

Who is the Super Bowl favorite?

The Chiefs are favored by 1 1/2 points, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

What are the streaming options for the Super Bowl?

Some of the options include Fubo, NFL+ and Tubi.

Who won AP awards at NFL Honors?

Buffalo's Josh Allen edged two-time winner Lamar Jackson for the AP NFL

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